

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are cancelled. New claims 17-36 are added, of which claims 17, 22, 28, and 32 are independent.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is in order, and an early and favorable first action on the merits is respectfully requested. However, if any issues arise that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below in an effort to expedite prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicant hereby requests any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any prescribed fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

Respectfully submitted,

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EJ/sj